

November records for 1985 are as follows: Black Rock Gully, Avon Gorge, Bristol, 2.xi.85, *P. griseoptera*, many stridulating males. Brean Down, Somerset, 10.xi.85, *P. albopunctata*, one stridulating male; abundant and active *Ch. brunneus*; *Ch. parallelus*, one stridulating male. Brent Knoll, Somerset, 10.xi.85, *Ch. brunneus*, 2 ♂♂; *G. rufus*, 1 ♂ 6 ♀♀, confined to an area recently cleared of brambles. Westhay Moor, Somerset, 10.xi.85, *P. griseoptera*, one stridulating male. Black Rock Gully, 11.xi.85, *P. griseoptera*, several stridulating males; *Ch. brunneus*, two stridulating males. Brown's Folly, near Bath, 12.xi.85, *Ch. brunneus*, one stridulating male; *Ch. parallelus*, one stridulating male, one female; *P. griseoptera*, 1 ♀. Chapman's Pool, Dorset 13.xi.85, a temperature of -8°C being recorded at Hurn Airport the night before, *P. griseoptera*, *Ch. brunneus* (including one female var. green), *Ch. parallelus*, *P. albopunctata*, all four species being common, active and stridulating. Black Rock Gully, 15.xi.85, *P. griseoptera*, one stridulating male; *Ch. brunneus*, one stridulating male. Rooksmoor, Glos., 15.xi.85, there having been a light snowfall at this site on 9.xi.85, followed by several hard frosts, *G. rufus*, 1 ♀, moderately active.

Thus, despite exceptionally cold, wet weather early in the year, 1985 yielded a good many Orthoptera records later in the season. One wonders if *C. discolor* will continue to spread further inland.

In my room I have seven Wood crickets, *Nemobius sylvestris*, taken as nymphs in October. They have matured rapidly in captivity to become stridulating adults by early February 1986. Interestingly all seven matured into males.

References

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UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR OF THE ANT *LASIUS ALIENUS* (FORST.)

In a previous note (Robbins, *Ent. Rec.* **93**: 42) I reported the occurrence of *Lasius fuliginosus* (latr.) in a first-floor flat. In Sept. 1986 *L. alienus* also occurred indoors, though this time in a bedroom on the South side of the building. The insects had travelled up inside

the cavity wall and were emerging indoors through a crack in the plaster by the window-sill. Several alates, accompanied by workers, were found. Further emergence, was discouraged, but nonetheless on subsequent days a further 3 or 4 alates and a few workers were noted. I have mislaid my notes made at the time, but I think that Sept 25th was the date on which the insects were first observed, whilst the final observation was of a couple of workers seen four days later. Incidentally, this is the first indication I have had of the occurrence of *L. alienus* in this part of Warwickshire. — J. ROBBINS, 123b Parkgate Road, Coventry, CV6 4GF.

HYGROPORA CUNCTANS (ERICHSON) (COL.: STAPHYLINIDAE) IN INVERNESS-SHIRE. — On a visit to a site near Lock Vaa with my friend Mr. Richards Lyszkowski on 22.vi.86, I collected a number of beetles by treading moss at the edge of a pond, among which were a male and female of *H. cunctans*.

This very local species was first taken in Britain at Brockenhurst in 1914 (Walker 1914 *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* **50**, 194), and subsequently at Shell Bay near Studland (Harwood cited by Donisthorpe, 1929 *ibid.* **65** 239), The Lizard, Cornwall (Bannister 1936 *ibid* 72 78) and at Slapton Ley (Allen 1944 *ibid.* **80** 24). A record from Kent (Williams 1970 *ibid.* **106** 21) turns out to have been based on a misidentification and the author has asked if I would set the record straight by including notice of this. I can find no other published record for this species in Britain but my friend Mr. A. A. Allen tells me that the late P. Harwood took the species (probably during the 1940's) at Kinrara on Speyside — a site only 10 km from where I found my specimens — but apparently did not published his find.

While my find does not, as I first thought, constitute the first Scottish record for this species, it serves to confirm the presence of this beetle in a locality considerably distant from its hitherto recognised haunts on the south coast. In a wider context, however, its presence in Scotland is perhaps not surprising for it occurs throughout Scandinavia (Silverberg 1979 *Enumeratio Coleopterorm Fennoscandiae et Daniae*). In northern Scandinavia, another member of the genus, *H. longicornis* Palm, is also present. The means of distinguishing the two species is given in Palm (1972 *Svensk Insektfauna* 9 pt 7.)

I thank Mr. A. A. Allen for confirming the identity of my specimens and telling me of the earlier Scottish record, Dr. M. Shaw for checking for me the Scottish Insect Index maintained at the Royal Museum of Scotland and Mr. P. M. Hammond for one of the references cited. J. A. OWEN 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.